

Executive Biographies



Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.

Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20
Partnerships for Education

As executive director, Karen Lee is responsible for supporting the Hawai'i P-20 Council and overseeing Hawai'i P-20 programs. P-20's major programs include the W.K. Kellogg Foundation-funded Hawai'i P-3 Initiative, which promotes partnerships within the early learning community to strengthen the continuum of early learning experiences for children, and programs such as GEAR UP and Step Up, designed to increase student readiness for post-high school success. She also guides the inter-agency team responsible for the design of a state-wide longitudinal data system to inform policy- and decision-making for the improvement of educational outcomes in Hawai'i.

Lee served as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Hawai'i System since 2006. In that role, she was responsible for UH system-wide student affairs policies and student-related initiatives, such as financial aid policies, the Regents and Presidential Scholarship program, system-wide scholarships, student residency status related to tuition, and registration policies. She collaborated closely with the chief student affairs officers on each UH campus, and served as the advisor to the UH Student Caucus, an advisory body of students from each of the UH campuses.

Lee has served as Executive Assistant to the UH president and as Undergraduate Coordinator of the Office of Student Academic Services at the UH Manoa Shidler College of Business. She has also been Assistant Dean of Students and Senior Assistant Director of Admissions at Columbia University (NY), and Assistant Director of Admission at Colgate University (NY).

Lee holds a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California, and a master's degree in higher education administration and bachelor's degree in mathematics from Columbia University.